

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/212,071

Q81147

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled).

15. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of an IgE antibody inhibitor containing glucomannan to a patient in need thereof,

wherein the glucomannan is in the form of refined *konjak* flour,

the glucomannan is easily soluble in water, and

the glucomannan is a pulverized product with an average particle diameter of 100 μm or less.

16. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy as described in claim 15, wherein the glucomannan has a dietary fiber content of 95% or more.

17. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy as described in claim 15, wherein the glucomannan has a weight average molecular weight of 1,000,000 or more, and a period of time until its 1% aqueous solution reaches the viscosity peak at room temperature is within 30 minutes.

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18. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy as described in claim 15, wherein the IgE antibody inhibitor is in the form of a powder, capsule, tablet, pill or granule.

19. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy comprising ingesting a food containing a pharmacologically effective amount of an IgE antibody inhibitor containing glucomannan, wherein the glucomannan is in the form of refined *konjak* flour, the glucomannan is easily soluble in water, and the glucomannan is a pulverized product with an average particle diameter of 100 μm or less.

20. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy as described in claim 19, wherein the glucomannan has a dietary fiber content of 95% or more.

21. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy as described in claim 19, wherein the glucomannan has a weight average molecular weight of 1,000,000 or more, and a period of time until its 1% aqueous solution reaches the viscosity peak at room temperature is within 30 minutes.

22. (new): A method for suppressing an allergy as described in claim 22, wherein the IgE antibody inhibitory food on the form of a powder, capsule, tablet, pill or granule.